THE PACIFIC

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Pac Theo Sem
Reading Room

Thorns.

I do not think the Providence unkind
That gives its bad things to this life of ours;
They are the thorns whereby we, travelers blind,
Feel out our flowers.

I think hate shows the quality of love—
That wrong attests somewhere there is right;
Do not the darkest shadows serve to prove
The power of light?

On tyrannous ways, the feet of freedom press;
The green bough broken off lets sunshine in;
And where sin is, aboundeth righteousness,
Much more than sin.

—Alice Cary.

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W. W. FERRIER, Editor,
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TO WHOM REST IS SWEET.

When the last dawns are fallen on gray,
And all life's toils and ease complete,
They know who work, not they who play,
If rest is sweet.

—J. A. Symonds.

DANGER POINTS.

There is no doubt that we are upon evil times in this country and that great danger confronts us as a people and a nation.

In 1885 the late Canon Farrar of England visited the United States and said in an address at that time, on the subject of America: "To despair of America would be to despair of humanity. I believe that she will not suffer the wise voices of the holy and thoughtful few to be drowned in noiser and baser sounds. I believe that her aspirations will dilate and conspire with the breezes from the sea which sweep the vast horizon of your territory. I believe that she will listen to the three great angels of history, of conscience, of experience, which, as the great teachers of mankind, ever repeat to us the eternal accents of the moral law."

The years since then have brought to our people some problems which did not confront them when Dr. Farrar uttered these words—at least not in such great intensity as at present. But we do not despair of America even now. Nevertheless there is urgent need for warning voices. The conditions are far from what they should be, and the outlook is not encouraging.

Several years ago, before the American Republic had attained quite the prestige of more recent years, Ruskin said: "Since the first dominion of men was asserted over the ocean three empires of mark beyond all others have been set upon its sands—the thrones of Tyre, of Venice, of England. Of the first of these great powers only the memory remains; of the second, the ruin; the third, which inherits their greatness, if it forget their examples, may be led through prouder eminence to less pitied destruction."

That warning is as applicable to and as needful for the American Republic as for Great Britain. Long ago the word came: "I will overturn, overturn, saith the Lord, till he come whose right it is." It is the right of the Man of Nazareth to reign in this world. It was created by him and for him. The principles set forth by him during his brief sojourn here upon the earth are finally to prevail; his kingdom is to come and God's will is to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In the teachings of Jesus was foreshadowed a universal brotherhood. And any people withstanding the coming of that world-wide brotherhood is destined to go down and under in the progress of the ages.

If The Pacific has any special mission on these shores, where it has been Providentially maintained for fifty-six years, we believe that it is to stand for the Christ-given teaching and principle of world-wide brotherhood.

Here where Oriental life first touches and mingles with Occidental, on American shores, it is not so easy to keep uplifted the banners of brotherhood and of justice; but it must be done notwithstanding the difficulty. That we should have to sacrifice and suffer somewhat by this contact is to be expected. In the end there will be general gain. Sacrifice is the law of life.

Two weeks ago we told of the shameful attack on the two distinguished Japanese who had come here to investigate earthquake phenomena. Again, last week, Professor Omori was attacked and knocked down in the streets of Eureka. It is said that his assailant took him for one of the Japanese crew on a steamer running between San Francisco and Eureka, who are regarded as strike-breakers and have accordingly incurred the ill-will of the striking seamen. It is not probable; but grant it, that he was so mistaken. That, then, leads to another evil which menaces our country. It is the disposition on the part of a large number of persons to deny to men the right of individual freedom—the right to work for whom they wish to work, and for whatever wage they may choose to enter into agreement to accept.

It must be settled, if we as a nation are to go on to any great destiny, that men who so work must have all possible protection from the brutal and murderous attacks which have been so frequent latterly.

As we write there lies before us the last copy of The Outlook in which it is charged by a writer who does not dare to sign his name, that the Western Federation of Miners "as an organization is an outlaw with the avowed purpose of destroying existing government." "It is," says the writer, "an example of an organization which may have been originally formed for an honest purpose, but which has fallen under the complete domination of men who are essentially anarchists."

This extreme conclusion may be unwaranted; but, beyond intelligent question, a long list of damnable actions can be laid at the feet of leading members of this organization, and to its executive board. That it is in the sight of God responsible for many of the murders that have occurred in the territory within its jurisdiction we have not a doubt.

But coming near home and to the last few days, and what have we? On the streets of the classic city of Berkeley an aged preacher of the good news which came into the world with Jesus of Nazareth,—the chaplain of the Seamen's Rest in Oakland,—was most brutally assaulted and was beaten into unconsciousness; and the supposition of those nearest to him is that it was because he had welcomed to the Seamen's Rest, since the strike began, non-union as well as union men.

"Not for thy neighbor nor for thee,
Be sure, was life designed to be
A draught of dull complacency."

NOTES.

The Pacific will get back to its former size as soon as the printing press, which has been ordered, arrives from the East. It is on the way now. It is easier to say that you are going to resume than it is to resume.

The Rev. Dr. Van Horn, Plymouth Church, Seattle, has gone East on his annual vacation annd to bring to Seattle his family. The lot on which the house of worship of Plymouth Church is situated is said to be worth $250,000.

The temporary structure planned by the First Congregational Church of San Francisco is likely to cost between $20,000 and $25,000. It is thought that it will serve the purpose of the church for ten years at least. It will be five years, perhaps ten, before it can be determined where the church should be permanently located.

The Rev. Dr. L. L. West, of Norwich, Connecticut, has declined the call from the Congregational Church of Everett, Washington. Dr. West saw a fine opportunity for work at Everett, but the church at Norwich persuaded him that it would be detrimental to its interests for him to leave, and so the call to Everett was declined.

The degree of doctor of divinity has been conferred on the Rev. William Horace Day, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles. Dr. Day graduated from Amherst in 1889, and later from Chicago Theological Seminary. He has studied also at Yale, at Oxford and at Berlin. His work as a minister of the gospel has been with credit to the institutions in which he was educated.

It is a question whether some of the insurance companies that are called "dollar companies" are any better than the "six-bit companies." Some of the companies that have paraded themselves before the public as intending to do the fair thing seem to be working with excessive zeal to scale down the policies issued by them. We may have more to say about this a little later. It has been asserted with considerable appearance of authority that the adjusters in some of the companies receive in addition to their salaries a large per cent on what they save in this manner for the companies. Evidently, here is something that demands investigation. But there is in all probability no way to determine the correctness of the assertion. Certainly it is not fair for the policy holders that there should be such an arrangement. The adjusters are placed under great temptation to delay settlement in an attempt to make for themselves every dollar possible.

A movement was inaugurated recently in Southern California to make Pomona College a thoroughly interdenominational educational institution. The plan provides for cooperation on the part of Congregationalists, Baptists and "Christians." President Gates writes us as follows concerning it: "The proposition is simply that these two denominations, numbering about the same as the Congregationalists in Southern California, say about ten thousand each, instead of attempting to build a college of their own or ever thinking of such a thing,—that they cast in their lot with us, working heartily together in Christian devotion for a Christian college; at least interdenominational, and probably growing to be un-denominational. I have nothing but enthusiastic letters from the strongest representatives of both denominations. The matter seems to be moving along as rapidly as it may. There is to be a big Baptist meeting on July 10th and a big meeting of the "Christian" denomination at their annual convention one month later. The committee of the "Christians" write me that they will devote one whole day to this matter; have asked me to be present, etc. The opposition that has appeared is of no consequence."

An Ohio young woman read at her graduation an essay on Hawthorne. The young woman said, "At the age of thirty-nine Hawthorne married, and took his wife to the old manse." The day after the commencement one of the village maidens called on Miss E., and remarked, "Wasn't it mean that Maud should say such a thing in her essay?" "To what do you refer?" "Why she said, at the age of thirty-nine, Hawthorne married, and took his wife to the old man's. Why didn't she say to his father-in-law's?"

A Southern woman tells about dining in Boston once, when next to her sat a homely little old gentleman, who wanted to know how she passed the time in the country with her old father. "Well, we read." "What do you read?" "Chiefly 'The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table.'" "Don't you get tired of it?" "Oh, no. When we get to the end, we simply turn back to the beginning." The old man chuckled, and made a remark implying that the "Autocrat" was no great thing among books and the lady was rather surprised at his disparaging air. After dinner she demanded of her hostess the name of the unappreciative old gentleman and was told that it was Dr. Holmes.—Boston Transcript.

A distinguished lawyer from the East, chatting with Justice McFarland, of the California Supreme Court, asked in reference to a matter of legal procedure, "The Supreme Court is the highest tribunal in the State is it not?" "Yes," assented the justice. "It is the court of ultimate conjecture."

May I reach
That purest heaven, be to other souls
The cup of strength in some great agony,
Enkindle generous ardor, feed pure love,
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
And in diffusion ever more intense!
So shall I join the choir invisible
Whose music is the gladness of the world.

—George Eliot.

THE TWO SINGERS.

A singer sang a song of tears,
And the great world heard and wept,
For he sang of the sorrows of fleeting years
And the hopes which the dead past kept;
And souls in anguish their burden bore,
And the world was sadder than ever before.

A singer sang a song of cheer,
And the great world listened and smiled,
For he sang of the love of a Father dear,
And the trust of a little child;
And the souls that before had forgotten to pray
Looked up and went singing along their way.

THE LADIES' AID.

We've put a fine addition on the
good old church at home;
It's just the latest kilter, with a gal-
lery and dome;
It seats a thousand people—finest
church in all the town,
And when 'twas dedicated, why, we
planked ten thousand down;
That is, we paid five thousand—ev-
ery deacon did his best—
And the Ladies' Aid Society, it prom-
ised all the rest.

We've got an organ in the church—
very finest in the land;
It's got a thousand stops or more; its
melody is grand;
And when we sit on cushioned pews
and hear the master play,
It carries us to realms of bliss un-
numbered miles away.
It cost a cool three thousand, and it's
stood the hardest test;
We'll pay a thousand on it—the La-
dies' Aid the rest.

They'll give a hundred sociables,
cantatas and teas;
They'll bake a thousand angel cakes,
and tons of cream they'll freeze;
They'll beg and scrape and toil and
sweat for seven years or more,
And they'll start all o'er again for a
carpet on the floor,
No, it isn't just like digging out the
money from your vest
When the Ladies' Aid gets busy and
says: 'We'll pay the rest'.

Of course we're proud of our big
church from pulpit up to spire;
It is the darling of our eyes, the
crown of our desire.
But when I see the sisters work to
raise the cash that lacks,
I somehow feel the church is built on
women's tired backs,
And sometimes I can't help thinking
when we reach the regions blest,
That men will get the toil and sweat,
and the Ladies' Aid the rest."

NOTES AND PERSONALS.

Rev. F. L. Newcomb has had to resign the pastorate of the Union Church, Montecillo, and take his little five-year-old daughter, Pearl, who is afflicted with hip disease, to a hospital in Los Angeles, where the surgeons say she will have to remain at least two years. He is supplying the Mount Hollywood Congregational Church at East Hollywood at present.

The Rev. W. H. Cross, who resigned recently the pastorate at Paso Robles, is making his home in Berkeley for a time, and is slowly improving in health

Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Merritt, of Tacoma, will spend the months of July and August in California, most of the time in Berkeley, where Mr. Merritt's mother, Mrs. M. L. Merritt, has her home.

Two ordinarily nice young women in a Massachusetts town were disciplined for breaking into laughter at a solemn prayer-meeting. This was certainly indecorous. But, when it is understood that a good brother had just arisen with the remark that he was "sitting on a thought when the settee struck him," their merriment was pardonable.—Time and the Hour.

A doctor had written a note to the lady, and on his next visit she asked him to tell her what two words in it were. "It has been said about me that my writing is the worst thing about me," said the physician, laughingly, as he surveyed his own scrawl with doubt. "Oh, but I'm sure that is not so!" was the hasty disclaimer. Far from it, doctor, far from it!"

"I was so ashamed of my husband once in London," said Mrs. John W. Gates. "Among the ordinary tourist stunts which we did on our last trip abroad was a visit to Madam Tussaud's Waxworks. One of our friends asked us how we liked it, and my husband replied, "Well, it impressed me as very much like any other English party."—Woman's Home Companion.

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